of the country, the Government has taken a decision recently–(i) to cover all urban locations with population of 10,000 and above by including potential of the adjoining villages falling within a radius of 15 kms.; (ii) to cover all feasible urban locations having a population of 5000 and above by taking into account the potential of the adjoining villages within 15 Kms. radius; (iii) to include potential villages having a popoulation of 10,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining village within 15 km. radius; and (iv) to open LPG distributorship in feasible rural locations contiguous to the towns having a population of one lakh and above. Retail outlets are being provided all over including rural areas to meet the demand from all areas including rural areas.

[Translation]

Floods in UP

2978. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States in North India which are badly affected due to floods;

(b) the number of people died and rendered homeless due to floods in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to check the damage caused by floods in Northern Bihar and the Nepal border;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide relief to the next kith and kin of those died, rendered homeless and affected other-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Some parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in Northern India have been affected by floods during the Southwest Monsoon of 1997.

(b) Due to recent floods in Uttar Pradesh 41 human lives were lost, 959 houses were damaged and a population of 2.47 lakhs including those rendered homeless were affected.

(c) and (d) Flood Management is a state subject and as such investigation, planning and execution of flood management schemes are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) of Central Government has prepared comprehensive master plans for flood management for all the rivers of North Bihar and sent to Government of Bihar for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation. The Union Government have been rendering financial assistance to Government of Bihar for flood proofing schemes, critical anti erosion schemes and maintenance of flood protection works of Kosi project under Central Sector during 8th Plan which are proposed to be continued during 9th Plan also.

Central Government is also holding negotiations with His Majesty's Government of Nepal regarding construction of storage reservoirs and embankments on common rivers which would provide flood control benefit to Bihar and the Nepal border. Extending embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers in to Napal territory are under active consideration, Both countries have also decided to take up investigations for Sapta Kosi High Dam in Nepal.

(e) In order to enable the State Government to carry out immediate rescue and relief measures in the areas affected by flood, State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with 75% contribution by Central Government. Two instalments of central share of Calamity Relief Fund have been released to all State Governments. An amount of Rs. 49.51 crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh and an amount of Rs. 20.56 crore has been released to Bihar during 1997-98.

[English]

Wet Leasing System from Caribjet

2979. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Managing Director (Capt. D.S. Mathur) and Mr. Michael Mascarenhas,the then Commercial Director of Air India started Wet Leasing System of Aircraft from Caribjet Co. ignoring all technical aspects raised by technical personnel and viability by executive authorities with an intention to rub off public money;

(b) if so, whether the total loss of Rs. 160 crores in operation of aircraft has resulted on this account;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct a CBI enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps the Government propose to take